

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
10 January 2002 (10.01.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/02061 A2

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A61K 7/00**
- (21) International Application Number: **PCT/US01/20614**
- (22) International Filing Date: **28 June 2001 (28.06.2001)**
- (25) Filing Language: **English**
- (26) Publication Language: **English**
- (30) Priority Data:
09/607,242 **30 June 2000 (30.06.2000)** **US**
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- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AT
(utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA,
CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, CZ (utility model), DE, DE
(utility model), DK, DK (utility model), DM, DZ, EE, EE
(utility model), ES, FI, FI (utility model), GB, GD, GE, GH,
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,
MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK,
SK (utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ,
VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian
patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European
patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE,
IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF,
CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:**
— *without international search report and to be republished
upon receipt of that report*
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: ORAL CARE COMPOSITIONS COMPRISING CHLORITE AND METHODS

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to topical oral compositions, including therapeutic rinses, especially mouth rinses, as well as toothpastes, gels, tooth powders, chewing gums, mouth sprays, lozenges (including breath mints), dental implements (such as dental floss and tape), and pet care products comprising at least a minimally effective amount of chlorite ion, wherein the pH of the final composition is greater than 7 and the composition is essentially free of chlorine dioxide or chlorous acid. This invention further relates to a method for treating or preventing diseases and conditions of the oral cavity such as gingivitis, plaque, periodontal disease, herpetic lesions, and infections that may develop following dental procedures such as osseous surgery, tooth extraction, periodontal flap surgery, dental implantation, and scaling and root planing, in humans and other animals, by applying a safe and effective amount of the chlorite ion composition to the oral cavity.

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ORAL CARE COMPOSITIONS COMPRISING CHLORITE AND METHODS

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation-in-part of application Serial Nos. 09/032,237; 09/032,234; and 09/032,238, all filed February 27, 1998.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to topical oral care compositions, including therapeutic rinses, especially mouth rinses, as well as toothpastes, tooth gels, tooth powders, subgingival gels, chewing gums, mouth sprays, lozenges (including breath mints), dental implements, and pet care products, comprising an effective amount of chlorite ion for treating or preventing conditions of the oral cavity. This invention further relates to methods for treating or preventing conditions of the oral cavity, including periodontal disease, herpetic lesions, and infections that may develop following dental procedures such as osseous surgery, tooth extraction, periodontal flap surgery, dental implantation, and scaling and root planing, in humans or other animals.

BACKGROUND ART

Periodontal disease ("gum disease") is a broad term used to describe those diseases which attack the gingiva and the underlying alveolar bone supporting the teeth. The disease exists in a number of species of warm blooded animals such as humans and canines, and includes a series of diseases exhibiting various syndromes which vary from each other according to the stage or situation of the disease or the age of the patient. The term is used for any inflammatory disease which initially occurs at a marginal gingiva area and may affect the alveolar bone. Periodontal disease affects the periodontium, which is the investing and supporting tissue surrounding a tooth (i.e., the periodontal ligament, the gingiva, and the alveolar bone). Two common periodontal diseases are gingivitis (inflammation of the gingiva) and periodontitis (inflammation of the periodontal ligament manifested by progressive resorption of alveolar bone, increasing mobility of the teeth, and loss of the teeth at advanced stage). Combinations of inflammatory and degenerative conditions are termed periodontitis complex. Other

terms used for various aspects of periodontal disease are "juvenile periodontitis", "acute necrotizing ulcerative gingivitis", and "alveolar pyorrhea".

Periodontal disease may involve one or more of the following conditions: inflammation of the gingiva, formation of periodontal pockets, bleeding and/or pus discharge from the periodontal pockets, resorption of alveolar bone, loose teeth and loss of teeth. Periodontal disease is generally considered to be caused by/associated with bacteria which are generally present in dental plaque which forms on the surface of the teeth and in the periodontal pocket. Thus, known methods for treating periodontal disease often include the use of antimicrobials and/or anti-inflammatory drugs.

Alveolar bone resorption is a loss of osseous tissue from the specialized bony structure which supports the teeth. Such resorption has many causes including, but not limited to, natural remodeling following tooth extraction, osseous surgery, periodontal flap surgery, dental implants, scaling and root planing and the progression of periodontal disease.

Periodontal disease is a major cause of tooth loss in adult humans. Tooth loss from periodontal disease is a significant problem beginning at age 35, but even by age 15 it is estimated that about 4 out of 5 persons already have gingivitis and 4 out of 10 have periodontitis. While good oral hygiene, as achieved by brushing the teeth with a cleansing dentifrice, may help reduce the incidence of periodontal disease, it does not necessarily prevent or eliminate its occurrence. This is because microorganisms contribute to both the initiation and progress of periodontal disease. Thus, in order to prevent or treat periodontal disease, these microorganisms must be suppressed by some means other than simple mechanical scrubbing. Towards this end, there has been a great deal of research aimed at developing therapeutic dentifrices, mouthwashes, and methods of treating periodontal disease which are effective in suppressing these microorganisms. Some of this research has focused on oral care compositions and methods comprising chlorine dioxide or chlorine dioxide generating compounds. Chlorine dioxide is a very strong oxidant and is known as a broad spectrum antimicrobial agent.

The prior art discloses compositions and methods that use chlorine dioxide for the treatment of various oral care conditions. Most of these prior art references teach that the delivery of chlorine dioxide is essential to provide efficacy.

The prior art teaches a variety of ways to deliver chlorine dioxide, in oral care compositions, to the oral cavity. For example, U.S. Patent Nos. 4,689,215 issued Aug.

25, 1987; 4,837,009 issued June 6, 1989; 4,696,811, issued Sept. 29, 1987; 4,808,389 issued Feb. 28, 1989; 4,786,492 issued Nov. 22, 1988; 4,788,053 issued Nov. 29, 1988; 4,792,442 issued Dec. 20, 1988; 4,818,519 issued April 4, 1989; 4,851,21 issued July 25, 1989; 4,855,135 issued Aug. 8, 1989; 4,793,989 issued Dec. 27, 1988; 4,886,657 issued Dec. 12, 1989; 4,889,714 issued Dec. 26, 1989; 4,925,656 issued May 15, 1990; 4,975,285 issued Dec. 4, 1990; 4,978,535 issued Dec. 18, 1990; 5,200,171 issued April 6, 1993; 5,348,734 issued Sept. 20, 1994; 5,618,550 issued April 8, 1997, and 5,489,435 issued Feb. 6, 1996, all to Perry A. Ratcliff, teach oral care compositions and methods of treatment using stabilized chlorine dioxide.

Additional prior art references, which teach the generation and delivery of chlorine dioxide with activator compounds such as protic acids, reducing sugar activators, etc., include: US Pat. Nos. 5,281,412, Lukacovic et al., issued Jan. 25, 1994, The Procter & Gamble Co.; 5,110,652, Kross et al., issued March 31, 1992, Alcide Corporation; 5,019,402, Kross et al., issued May 28, 1991, Alcide; 4,986,990, Davidson et al., issued Jan. 22, 1991, Alcide; 4,891,216, Kross et al., issued Jan. 2, 1990, Alcide; 4,330,531, Alliger, issued May 18, 1982; DE 2,329,753, published Dec. 13, 1973, National Patent Development Corp.; EP 287,074, Kross et al., published Oct. 19, 1988, Alcide; EP 565,134, Kross et al., published Oct. 13, 1993, Alcide; and WO/95/27472, Richter, published Oct. 19, 1995.

Additional prior art references relating to chlorine dioxide compositions include: GB 2,289,841, Mehmet, published June 12, 1995, Janina International; GB 2,290,233, Drayson et al., published Dec. 20, 1995, Medical Express Limited; WO 96/25916, Van Den Bosch et al., published Aug. 29, 1996, Diamond White; JP 054,311, Tsuchikura, published March 28, 1985; JP 105,610, Tsuchikura, published June 11, 1985; and WO/89/03179, Partlow et al., published April 20, 1989, New Generation Products.

The above prior art references have not recognized that the delivery of chlorite ion, itself, to the oral cavity will provide efficacy in various oral care conditions. Because prior art references have focused on the delivery of chlorine dioxide for efficacy, prior art compositions and methods of treatment may have various drawbacks. For example, compositions comprising chlorine dioxide can exhibit aesthetic disadvantages such as "chlorine" (e.g., swimming pool) taste and smell. In addition due to the strong oxidizing capability of chlorine dioxide, compositions comprising chlorine dioxide may have certain stability disadvantages, especially in oral care formulations.

Therefore, prior art compositions, mentioned above, have not been entirely satisfactory for the treatment and/or prevention of gingivitis, plaque, periodontal disease, and other conditions of the oral cavity. Therefore, additional efficacious compositions and methods of treatment for these purposes are desirable.

It is the purpose of the present invention to provide compositions and methods for treating or preventing diseases and conditions of the oral cavity, including plaque, gingivitis, periodontal disease, herpetic lesions, and infections that may develop following dental procedures such as osseous surgery, tooth extraction, periodontal flap surgery, dental implantation, and scaling and root planing, in humans or other animals, by utilizing an effective amount of chlorite ion wherein no (or only very low levels of) chlorine dioxide or chlorous acid is generated or is present in the oral care composition at the time of use.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to topical oral care compositions for use in humans and other animals, including therapeutic rinses, especially mouth rinses, as well as toothpastes, tooth gels, tooth powders, non-abrasive gels, chewing gums, mouth sprays, lozenges (including breath mints), dental implements (such as dental floss and tape), and pet care products (such as food, pet chews or toys), comprising:

- (a) a safe and effective amount, preferably a minimally effective amount, of chlorite ion; and
- (b) a pharmaceutically-acceptable topical, oral carrier;

wherein the composition is essentially free of chlorine dioxide or chlorous acid; and the pH of the final composition is greater than 7. More preferably the pH of the composition is greater than about 7.5, even more preferably from about 8 to about 12.

This invention further relates to a method for treating or preventing diseases of the oral cavity, such as gingivitis, plaque, periodontal disease, herpetic lesions, and infections that may develop following dental procedures such as osseous surgery, tooth extraction, periodontal flap surgery, dental implantation, and scaling and root planing, in humans or other animals, by applying the above compositions to the oral cavity and/or teeth.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to compositions and methods of treating or preventing diseases of the oral cavity (e.g., plaque, gingivitis, periodontal disease, herpetic lesions, and infections that may develop following dental procedures such as osseous surgery, tooth extraction, periodontal flap surgery, dental implantation, and

scaling and root planing), in humans or other animals), by topically applying to the oral cavity, a safe and effective amount of chlorite ion.

The present invention relates to the delivery of chlorite ion to the oral cavity for efficacy, and is specifically designed to avoid or minimize the production of chlorine dioxide or chlorous acid in the compositions. The present invention, therefore, relates to oral care compositions comprising chlorite ion wherein no (or only very low levels of) chlorine dioxide or chlorous acid is generated or is present in the oral care compositions at the time of use. Moreover, the present invention preferably relates to oral care compositions comprising chlorite ion with relatively alkaline pHs, e.g. at pHs above 7, whereby no (or only very low levels of) chlorine dioxide or chlorous acid is generated or is present in the oral care composition at the time of use. These compositions and methods (of the present invention) are effective even though no (or only very low levels of) chlorine dioxide or chlorous acid is generated or is present in these compositions.

Further, the present invention relates to topical oral care compositions for humans and other animals, including therapeutic rinses, especially mouth rinses, as well as toothpastes, tooth gels, tooth powders, non-abrasive gels (including subgingival gels), chewing gums, mouth sprays, lozenges (including breath mints), dental implements (such as dental floss and tape), and pet care products (such as pet chews and toys). These compositions comprise a minimally effective amount of chlorite ion. Other animals include for example, dogs, cats or horses.

These compositions are effective in killing, and/or altering the bacterial metabolism, and/or for a period of time suppressing the growth of, microorganisms which cause topically-treatable infections and diseases of the oral cavity. While not intending to be bound by theory, the present inventors believe that chlorite ion provides antimicrobial activity, especially selectivity for gram negative anaerobes known to be involved in periodontal disease, such as *P. gingivalis*, *B. forsythus*, *A. actinomycetemcomitans*, *T. denticola*, *T. socranskii*, *F. nucleatum*, and *P. intermedia*. The present compositions are also effective against other oral cavity strains such as *L. acidophilus*, *L. casei*, *A. viscosus*, *S. sobrinus*, *S. sanguis*, *S. viridans*, and *S. mutans*.

In one aspect the present invention relates to topical oral care compositions for humans and other animals, including therapeutic rinses, especially mouth rinses, as well as toothpastes, tooth gels, tooth powders, non-abrasive gels (including subgingival gels), chewing gums, mouth sprays, lozenges (including breath mints), dental implements

(such as dental floss and tape), and pet care products (including nutritional supplements, food, drinking water additives, chews or toys), comprising:

(a) from about 0.02% to about 6.0%, by weight of the final composition, of chlorite ion; and

(b) a pharmaceutically-acceptable topical, oral carrier;

wherein the final composition is essentially free of chlorine dioxide or chlorous acid and wherein the composition is essentially free of hypochlorite ions or hypochlorite salts and preferably has a final pH greater than 7.5, even more preferably from about 8 to 12..

Preferably, the present compositions further comprise one or more additional therapeutic agents selected from the group consisting of: antimicrobial/antiplaque agents, anti-inflammatory agents (including cyclo-oxygenase inhibitors and lipoxygenase inhibitors), H₂-antagonists, metalloproteinase inhibitors, cytokine receptor antagonists, lipopolysaccharide complexing agents, tissue growth factors, immunostimulatory agents, cellular redox modifiers (antioxidants), biofilm inhibiting agents, analgesics, hormones, vitamins, and minerals.

By "diseases or conditions of the oral cavity," as used herein, is meant diseases of the oral cavity including periodontal disease, gingivitis, periodontitis, periodontosis, adult and juvenile periodontitis, and other inflammatory conditions of the tissues within the oral cavity, plus caries, necrotizing ulcerative gingivitis, and other conditions such as herpetic lesions, and infections that may develop following dental procedures such as osseous surgery, tooth extraction, periodontal flap surgery, dental implantation, and scaling and root planing. Also specifically included are dentoalveolar infections, dental abscesses (e.g., cellulitis of the jaw; osteomyelitis of the jaw), acute necrotizing ulcerative gingivitis (i.e., Vincent's infection), infectious stomatitis (i.e., acute inflammation of the buccal mucosa), and Noma (i.e., gangrenous stomatitis or cancrum oris). Oral and dental infections are more fully disclosed in Finegold, *Anaerobic Bacteria in Human Diseases*, chapter 4, pp 78-104, and chapter 6, pp 115-154 (Academic Press, Inc., NY, 1977), the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. The compositions and methods of treatment of the present invention are particularly effective for treating or preventing periodontal disease (gingivitis and/or periodontitis) and resulting breath malodor.

By "safe and effective amount" as used herein is meant an amount of a chlorite ion, high enough to significantly (positively) modify the condition to be treated, but low enough to avoid serious side effects (at a reasonable benefit/risk ratio), within the scope

of sound medical/dental judgment. The safe and effective amount of a chlorite ion, will vary with the particular condition being treated, the age and physical condition of the patient being treated, the severity of the condition, the duration of treatment, the nature of concurrent therapy, the specific form (i.e., salt) of the chlorite source employed, and the particular vehicle from which the chlorite ion is applied.

By the term "comprising", as used herein, meant that various additional components can be conjointly employed in the compositions of this invention as long as the listed materials perform their intended functions.

By the term "carrier", as used herein, is meant a suitable vehicle (including excipients and diluents), which is pharmaceutically acceptable and can be used to apply the present compositions in the oral cavity.

By "dentifrice" as used herein is meant toothpaste, tooth powder, and tooth gel formulations unless otherwise specified.

By "topical oral care composition" or "oral composition" as used herein is meant a product which is not intentionally swallowed for purposes of systemic administration of therapeutic agents, but is retained in the oral cavity for a sufficient time to contact substantially all of the dental surfaces and/or oral mucosal tissues for purposes of oral activity.

By "essentially free of chlorous acid or chlorine dioxide" as used herein is meant a composition which comprises very low levels, e.g. less than about 2 ppm, preferably less than about 1 ppm of chlorine dioxide or chlorous acid, using known analytical methods for measuring chlorine dioxide or chlorous acid including highly specific electron spin resonance (ESR) spectroscopy.

By "biofilm inhibiting agent" as used herein is meant an agent that prevents bacterial adherence, colonization in the mouth or maturation into biofilms, which are defined as bacterial populations adherent to each other and/or to surfaces or interfaces.

Chlorite Ion Source

The present invention includes chlorite ion as an essential ingredient in the compositions and methods of the present invention. The chlorite ion can come from any type of chlorite salt. Examples include alkali metal chlorites, alkaline earth metal chlorites, and any other transition metals, inner transition metal chlorites and/or polymeric salts. Water soluble chlorite salts are preferred. Examples of suitable metal chlorites include calcium chlorite, barium chlorite, magnesium chlorite, lithium chlorite, sodium chlorite and potassium chlorite. Sodium chlorite and potassium chlorite are

preferred. Sodium chlorite is particularly preferred. Mixtures of two or more sources of chlorite may also be used.

For dentifrice compositions of the present invention, the level of chlorite ion is greater than about 0.02%, preferably greater than about 0.4%, more preferably greater than about 0.6%, even more preferably greater than about 0.75%, and most preferably from about 1% to about 2% by weight of the composition.

For mouthrinse compositions of the present invention, the level of chlorite ion is greater than about 0.02%, preferably greater than about 0.075%, more preferably greater than about 0.15%, by weight of the composition.

For lozenge or breath mint compositions of the present invention, the amount of chlorite ion is from about 0.1 mg to about 12 mg, preferably from about 1 mg to about 6 mg, per unit.

For gum compositions of the present invention, the amount of chlorite ion is from about 0.1 mg to about 12 mg, preferably from about 1 mg to about 6 mg, per unit.

For methods of treating or preventing gingivitis, preferably the compositions comprise from about 0.1% to about 6%, of chlorite ion, by weight of the composition.

In the context of breath odor elimination or reduction, the compositions and methods of the present invention provide long-lasting breath protection, e.g. greater than about 3 hours.

For methods of treating or preventing oral malodor, and for breath protection lasting greater than about 3 hours, preferably the compositions comprise from about 0.04% to about 6%, of chlorite ion, by weight of the composition.

Chlorite salts are available from various suppliers as sodium chlorite. Sodium chlorite is commercially available as a technical grade powder or flake, and as an aqueous liquid concentrate in a range of concentrations. Example of sources of sodium chlorite include: sodium chlorite available from Aragonesas and from Vulcan. These sources generally have no more than 4% sodium chlorate as well.

Preferably, the source of chlorite ion has high purity, e.g. 70% or greater. Furthermore, preferably the compositions of the present invention are essentially free of hypochlorite metal salt or hypochlorite ion, dichloroisocyanurate, or salts thereof.

Preferably, the level of chlorite ion is measured by gradient separation of inorganic and organic acid anions using Ion Pac ASII exchange column, available from Dionex Corporation, Sunnyvale, CA.

The final compositions of the present invention preferably comprise low levels of chlorine dioxide or chlorous acid, or are essentially free of chlorine dioxide or chlorous acid (have less than about 2 ppm, preferably less than about 1 ppm of chlorine dioxide or chlorous acid).

For dual phase compositions the level of chlorine dioxide or chlorous acid is measured within about 2 to 3 minutes after the two phases are mixed together.

Analytical methods to measure the levels of chlorine dioxide or chlorous acid in the compositions of the present invention are known in the art. For example, L. S. Clesceri, A. E. Greenberg, and R. R. Trussel, *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater*, 17th ed., American Public Health Association, Washington, D.C., 1989, pp. 4-75 through 4-83; E. M. Aieta, P. V. Roberts, and M. Hernandez, *J. Am. Water Works Assoc.* 76(1), pp. 64-70 (1984); J. D. Pfaff and C. A. Brockhoff, *J. Am. Water Works Assoc.* 82(4), pp. 192-195 (1990); G. Gordon, W. J. Cooper, R. G. Rice, and G. E. Pacey, *J. Am. Water Works Assoc.* 80(9), pp. 94-108 (1988); D. L. Harp, R. L. Klein, and D. J. Schoonover, *J. Am. Water Works Assoc.* 73(7), pp. 387-389 (1981); G. Gordon, W. J. Cooper, R. G. Rice, and G. E. Pacey, *Am. Water Works Assoc. Res. Foundation*, Denver, Colo., 1987, pp. 815; E. Lynch, et al., *Free Radical Research*, 26(3) 209-234 (1997), R. S. Keyes and A. M. Bobst in *Biological Magnetic Resonance*, 14, pp. 283-338 (1998). All of these references are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

The pH of the final composition (either a single phase or dual phase composition) of the present invention is greater than 7, preferably greater than 7.5, more preferably from 8 to 12; still more preferably the pH is from 9 to 10.

Preferably for mouthwash compositions the pH of the final composition is greater than 7.5, preferably from 8 to 12, more preferably the pH is from 9 to 10.

Preferably for dentifrice compositions the pH of the final composition is greater than 7.5, preferably from 8 to 12, more preferably the pH is from 9 to 10.

For dual phase compositions the pH is measured after the two phases are mixed together, and is not based on the pH of a single phase prior to mixing.

The pH of the final dentifrice composition is measured from a 3:1 aqueous slurry of toothpaste, e.g. 3 parts water to 1 part toothpaste.

Pharmaceutically-Acceptable Excipients

By "pharmaceutically-acceptable excipient" or "pharmaceutically-acceptable oral carrier," as used herein, is meant one or more compatible solid or liquid filler diluents or

encapsulating substances which are suitable for topical, oral administration. By "compatible," as used herein, is meant that the components of the composition are capable of being commingled without interaction in a manner which would substantially reduce the composition's stability and/or efficacy for treating or preventing breath malodor, plaque, gingivitis, periodontal disease and to whiten the teeth, according to the compositions and methods of the present invention.

The carriers or excipients of the present invention can include the usual and conventional components of dentifrices (including gels and gels for subgingival application), mouth rinses, mouth sprays, chewing gums, and lozenges (including breath mints) as more fully described hereinafter.

The compositions of the present invention can be dual phase compositions or single phase compositions. The dual phase compositions comprise a first phase and a second phase:

- (a) the first phase comprising chlorite ion; and
- (b) the second phase comprising a pharmaceutically-acceptable topical, oral carrier and comprising no chlorite.

These dual phase compositions comprise two phases, wherein chlorite ion is placed in a first phase which is to be kept separate from the second phase. The first phase comprising chlorite ion can additionally comprise pharmaceutically-acceptable topical, oral carriers which are compatible with chlorite ion. Preferably the first phase, in addition to chlorite, comprises one (or more) compatible binder, humectant, buffer and/or preservative. Preferably, the second phase, which comprises no chlorite, comprises flavorant, surfactant, fluoride ion, and/or abrasive.

Normally, each phase in these two phase compositions, is in a separate container or in a single container with two chambers. Prior to use of dual phase composition by the consumer, the two phases are combined by coextrusion of the two separate phases, preferably at a 1:1 volume to volume ratio, and the composition is preferably used immediately after preparation, i.e. within about 5 minutes.

The two phases, however, can be combined from about 1 minute to about 1 hour before use, or during the use of the composition.

Dual phase containers are disclosed in US Pat. Nos. 5,052,590, Ratcliffe, issued Oct. 1, 1991 and 4,330,531, Alliger, issued May 18, 1982.

In another preferred embodiment, chlorite is substantially anhydrous until just prior to use. For example, preparing a mouth rinse solution just prior to use by dissolving

in water, a substantially anhydrous concentrate of chlorite, to the necessary concentration for use in the method of treatments of the present invention.

The choice of a carrier to be used is basically determined by the way the composition is to be introduced into the oral cavity. If a toothpaste (including tooth gels, etc.) is to be used, then a "toothpaste carrier" is chosen as disclosed in, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 3,988,433, to Benedict, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference (e.g., abrasive materials, sudsing agents, binders, humectants, flavoring and sweetening agents, etc.). If a mouth rinse is to be used, then a "mouth rinse carrier" is chosen, as disclosed in, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 3,988,433 to Benedict (e.g., water, flavoring and sweetening agents, etc.). Similarly, if a mouth spray is to be used, then a "mouth spray carrier" is chosen or if a lozenge is to be used, then a "lozenge carrier" is chosen (e.g., a candy base), candy bases being disclosed in, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 4,083,955, to Grabenstetter et al., which is incorporated herein by reference; if a chewing gum is to be used, then a "chewing gum carrier" is chosen, as disclosed in, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 4,083,955, to Grabenstetter et al., which is incorporated herein by reference (e.g., gum base, flavoring and sweetening agents). If a sachet is to be used, then a "sachet carrier" is chosen (e.g., sachet bag, flavoring and sweetening agents). If a subgingival gel is to be used (for delivery of actives into the periodontal pockets or around the periodontal pockets), then a "subgingival gel carrier" is chosen as disclosed in, e.g. U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,198,220, Damani, issued March 30, 1993, P&G, 5,242,910, Damani, issued Sept. 7, 1993, P&G, all of which are incorporated herein by reference. Carriers suitable for the preparation of compositions of the present invention are well known in the art. Their selection will depend on secondary considerations like taste, cost, and shelf stability, etc.

The compositions of the present invention may be in the form of non-abrasive gels, including subgingival gels, which may be aqueous or non-aqueous. Aqueous gels generally include a thickening agent (from about 0.1% to about 20%), a humectant (from about 10% to about 55%), a flavoring agent (from about 0.04% to about 2%), a sweetening agent (from about 0.1% to about 3%), a coloring agent (from about 0.01% to about 0.5%), and the balance water. The compositions may comprise an anticaries agent (from about 0.05% to about 0.3% as fluoride ion), and an anticalculus agent (from about 0.1% to about 13%).

Subgingival gels according to the present invention may be prepared using a polymer carrier system comprising polymers of various types including those polymer materials which are safe for use in the oral cavity and wounds of a human or other

animal. Such polymers are known, including for example polymers and copolymers such as polylactic acid ("PLA"), polyglycolic acid ("PLG"), polylactyl-co-glycolic acid ("PLGA"), polyaminoacids such as polyaspartame, chitosan, collagen, polyalbumin, gelatin and hydrolyzed animal protein, polyvinyl pyrrolidone xanthan and other water soluble gums, polyanhydride, and poly orthoesters. Preferred are polymers and copolymers of polylactic acid ("PLA"), polyglycolic acid ("PLG"), and poly lactylco-glycolic acid ("PLGA"). Particularly preferred polymers useful for the present invention are the copolymers containing mixtures of lactide and glycolide monomers. Lactide monomeric species preferably comprise from about 15% to about 85%, most preferably from about 35% to about 65% of the polymers, while glycolide monomeric species comprise from about 15% to about 85% of the polymer, preferably from about 35% to about 65% on a molar basis. The molecular weight of the copolymer typically lies in the range of from about 1000 to about 120,000 (number average). These polymers are described in detail in U.S. Pat. No. 4,443,430, Apr. 17, 1984, to Mattei incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

A feature of fluid gel compositions containing certain of such copolymers is their transformation into near solid phase in the presence of an aqueous fluid such as water, aqueous buffers, serum, crevicular fluid, or other body fluid. This is believed to be due to insolubility of the polymer such as poly(lactyl-co-glycolide) copolymer in water, and related aqueous solvents such as may be present in wound or crevicular fluid. Thus, such fluid compositions can be administered conveniently from a syringe-like apparatus, and can be easily retained at the treatment sites after hardening to a near solid. Further, since such polymeric materials do undergo slow degradation via hydrolysis, the chlorite and any other therapeutic agent contained therein continue to release in a sustained manner from the composition and the composition does not need to be surgically removed later.

The polymer carrier system generally comprises from about 1% to about 90% of said polymeric material, preferably from about 10% to about 70%, of the compositions useful for the methods of the present invention. Generally, for the most preferred copolymers containing lactide and glycolide, less polymer is necessary as the amount of lactide goes up. The polymer carrier system also comprises a solvent such as propylene carbonate. This is a material of commerce and is used in the present compositions at a level of from about 25% to about 90%, to form compositions in gel or liquid form .

Preferred compositions of the subject invention may also be in the form of dentifrices, such as toothpastes, tooth gels and tooth powders. Components of such toothpaste and tooth gels generally include one or more of a dental abrasive (from about 10% to about 50%), a surfactant (from about 0.5% to about 10%), a thickening agent (from about 0.1% to about 5%), a humectant (from about 10% to about 55%), a flavoring agent (from about 0.04% to about 2%), a sweetening agent (from about 0.1% to about 3%), a coloring agent (from about 0.01% to about 0.5%) and water (from about 2% to about 45%). Such toothpaste or tooth gel may also include one or more of an anticaries agent (from about 0.05% to about 0.3% as fluoride ion), and an anticalculus agent (from about 0.1% to about 13%). Tooth powders, of course, contain substantially all non-liquid components.

Other preferred compositions of the subject invention are mouthwashes, including mouth sprays. Components of such mouthwashes and mouth sprays typically include one or more of water (from about 45% to about 95%), ethanol (from about 0% to about 25%), a humectant (from about 0% to about 50%), a surfactant (from about 0.01% to about 7%), a flavoring agent (from about 0.04% to about 2%), a sweetening agent (from about 0.1% to about 3%), and a coloring agent (from about 0.001% to about 0.5%). Such mouthwashes and mouth sprays may also include one or more of an anticaries agent (from about 0.05% to about 0.3% as fluoride ion), and an anticalculus agent (from about 0.1% to about 3%).

Other preferred compositions of the subject invention are dental solutions including irrigation fluids. Components of such dental solutions generally include one or more of water (from about 90% to about 99%), preservative (from about 0.01% to about 0.5%), thickening agent (from 0% to about 5%), flavoring agent (from about 0.04% to about 2%), sweetening agent (from about 0.1% to about 3%), and surfactant (from 0% to about 5%).

Chewing gum compositions typically include one or more of a gum base (from about 50% to about 99%), a flavoring agent (from about 0.4% to about 2%) and a sweetening agent (from about 0.01% to about 20%).

The term "lozenge" as used herein includes: breath mints, troches, pastilles, microcapsules, and fast-dissolving solid forms including freeze dried forms (cakes, wafers, thin films, tablets) and fast-dissolving solid forms including compressed tablets. The term "fast-dissolving solid form" as used herein means that the solid dosage form dissolves in less than about 60 seconds, preferably less than about 15 seconds, more

preferably less than about 5 seconds, after placing the solid dosage form in the oral cavity. Fast-dissolving solid forms are disclosed in copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/253,890, filed June 3, 1994, Brideau; U.S. Patent 4,642,903; U.S. Patent 4,946,684; U.S. Patent 4,305,502; U.S. Patent 4,371,516; U.S. Patent 5,188,825; U.S. Patent 5,215,756; U.S. Patent 5,298,261; U.S. Patent 3,882, 228; U.S. Patent 4,687,662; U.S. Patent 4,642,903. All of these patents are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Lozenges include discoid-shaped solids comprising a therapeutic agent in a flavored base. The base may be a hard sugar candy, glycerinated gelatin or combination of sugar with sufficient mucilage to give it form. These dosage forms are generally described in Remington: The Science and Practice of Pharmacy, 19th Ed., Vol. II, Chapter 92, 1995. Lozenge compositions (compressed tablet type) typically include one or more fillers (compressible sugar), flavoring agents, and lubricants. Microcapsules of the type contemplated herein are disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 5,370,864, Peterson et al., issued Dec. 6, 1994, which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

In still another aspect, the invention comprises a dental implement impregnated with a chlorite ion composition. The dental implement comprises an implement for contact with teeth and other tissues in the oral cavity, said implement being impregnated with a safe and therapeutically effective amount of chlorite ion. The dental implement can be impregnated fibers including dental floss or tape, chips or strips and polymer fibers. Dental floss or tape typically comprise from 0.01 mg to 0.1 mg chlorite ion per cm of material. The dental implement can also be a dental tool used for stimulating the periodontal tissue such as a toothpick or rubber tip.

The compositions of the present invention are preferably essentially free of organic solvents. The compositions of the present invention are also preferably essentially free of peroxy compounds.

Types of carriers or oral care excipients which may be included in compositions of the present invention, along with specific non-limiting examples, are:

Abrasives

Dental abrasives useful in the topical, oral carriers of the compositions of the subject invention include many different materials. The material selected must be one which is compatible within the composition of interest and does not excessively abrade dentin. Suitable abrasives include, for example, silicas including gels and precipitates, insoluble sodium polymetaphosphate, hydrated alumina, calcium carbonate, dicalcium

orthophosphate dihydrate, calcium pyrophosphate, tricalcium phosphate, calcium polymetaphosphate, and resinous abrasive materials such as particulate condensation products of urea and formaldehyde.

Another class of abrasives for use in the present compositions is the particulate thermo-setting polymerized resins as described in U.S. Pat. No. 3,070,510 issued to Cooley & Grabenstetter on Dec. 25, 1962. Suitable resins include, for example, melamines, phenolics, ureas, melamine-ureas, melamine-formaldehydes, urea-formaldehyde, melamine-urea-formaldehydes, cross-linked epoxides, and cross-linked polyesters. Mixtures of abrasives may also be used.

Silica dental abrasives of various types are preferred because of their unique benefits of exceptional dental cleaning and polishing performance without unduly abrading tooth enamel or dentine. The silica abrasive polishing materials herein, as well as other abrasives, generally have an average particle size ranging between about 0.1 to about 30 microns, and preferably from about 5 to about 15 microns. The abrasive can be precipitated silica or silica gels such as the silica xerogels described in Pader et al., U.S. Patent 3,538,230, issued Mar. 2, 1970, and DiGiulio, U.S. Patent 3,862,307, issued Jan. 21, 1975, both incorporated herein by reference. Preferred are the silica xerogels marketed under the trade name "Syloid" by the W.R. Grace & Company, Davison Chemical Division. Also preferred are the precipitated silica materials such as those marketed by the J. M. Huber Corporation under the trade name, Zeodent®, particularly the silica carrying the designation Zeodent 119®. The types of silica dental abrasives useful in the toothpastes of the present invention are described in more detail in Wason, U.S. Patent 4,340,583, issued July 29, 1982. The abrasive in the toothpaste compositions described herein is generally present at a level of from about 6% to about 70% by weight of the composition. Preferably, toothpastes contain from about 10% to about 50% of abrasive, by weight of the composition.

A particularly preferred precipitated silica is the silica disclosed in US Pat. Nos. 5,603,920, issued on Feb. 18, 1997; 5,589,160, issued Dec. 31, 1996; 5,658,553, issued Aug. 19, 1997; 5,651,958, issued July 29, 1997, all of which are assigned to the Procter & Gamble Co. All of these patents are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Mixtures of abrasives can be used. All of the above patents regarding dental abrasives are incorporated herein by reference. The total amount of abrasive in dentifrice compositions of the subject invention preferably range from about 6% to about 70% by weight; toothpastes preferably contain from about 10% to about 50% of

abrasives, by weight of the composition. Solution, mouth spray, mouthwash and non-abrasive gel compositions of the subject invention typically contain no abrasive.

Sudsing Agents (Surfactants)

Suitable sudsing agents are those which are reasonably stable and form foam throughout a wide pH range. Sudsing agents include nonionic, anionic, amphoteric, cationic, zwitterionic, synthetic detergents, and mixtures thereof. Many suitable nonionic and amphoteric surfactants are disclosed by U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,988,433 to Benedict; U.S. Patent 4,051,234, issued September 27, 1977, and many suitable nonionic surfactants are disclosed by Agricola et al., U.S. Patent 3,959,458, issued May 25, 1976, both incorporated herein in their entirety by reference.

a.) Nonionic and amphoteric surfactants

Nonionic surfactants which can be used in the compositions of the present invention can be broadly defined as compounds produced by the condensation of alkylene oxide groups (hydrophilic in nature) with an organic hydrophobic compound which may be aliphatic or alkyl-aromatic in nature. Examples of suitable nonionic surfactants include poloxamers (sold under trade name Pluronic), polyoxyethylene sorbitan esters (sold under trade name Tweens), fatty alcohol ethoxylates, polyethylene oxide condensates of alkyl phenols, products derived from the condensation of ethylene oxide with the reaction product of propylene oxide and ethylene diamine, ethylene oxide condensates of aliphatic alcohols, long chain tertiary amine oxides, long chain tertiary phosphine oxides, long chain dialkyl sulfoxides, and mixtures of such materials.

The amphoteric surfactants useful in the present invention can be broadly described as derivatives of aliphatic secondary and tertiary amines in which the aliphatic radical can be a straight chain or branched and wherein one of the aliphatic substituents contains from about 8 to about 18 carbon atoms and one contains an anionic water-solubilizing group, e.g., carboxylate, sulfonate, sulfate, phosphate, or phosphonate. Other suitable amphoteric surfactants are betaines, specifically cocamidopropyl betaine. Mixtures of amphoteric surfactants can also be employed.

The present composition can typically comprise a nonionic, amphoteric, or combination of nonionic and amphoteric surfactant each at a level of from about 0.025% to about 5%, preferably from about 0.05% to about 4%, and most preferably from about 0.1% to about 3%.

b.) Anionic surfactants

Anionic surfactants useful herein include the water-soluble salts of alkyl sulfates having from 8 to 20 carbon atoms in the alkyl radical (e.g., sodium alkyl sulfate) and the water-soluble salts of sulfonated monoglycerides of fatty acids having from 8 to 20 carbon atoms. Sodium lauryl sulfate and sodium coconut monoglyceride sulfonates are examples of anionic surfactants of this type. Other suitable anionic surfactants are sarcosinates, such as sodium lauroyl sarcosinate, taurates, sodium lauryl sulfoacetate, sodium lauroyl isethionate, sodium laureth carboxylate, and sodium dodecyl benzenesulfonate. Mixtures of anionic surfactants can also be employed. The present composition typically comprises an anionic surfactant at a level of from about 0.025% to about 9%, preferably from about 0.05% to about 7%, and most preferably from about 0.1% to about 5%.

Fluoride Ions

The present invention may also incorporate free fluoride ions. Preferred free fluoride ions can be provided by sodium fluoride, stannous fluoride, indium fluoride, and sodium monofluorophosphate. Sodium fluoride is the most preferred free fluoride ion. Norris et al., U.S. Patent 2,946,725, issued July 26, 1960, and Widder et al., U.S. Patent 3,678,154 issued July 18, 1972, disclose such salts as well as others. These patents are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

The present composition may contain from about 50 ppm to about 3500 ppm, and preferably from about 500 ppm to about 3000 ppm of free fluoride ions.

Thickening Agents

In preparing toothpaste or gels, it is necessary to add some thickening material to provide a desirable consistency of the composition, to provide desirable chlorite release characteristics upon use, to provide shelf stability, and to provide stability of the composition, etc. Preferred thickening agents are carboxyvinyl polymers, carrageenan, hydroxyethyl cellulose, laponite and water soluble salts of cellulose ethers such as sodium carboxymethylcellulose and sodium carboxymethyl hydroxyethyl cellulose. Natural gums such as gum karaya, xanthan gum, gum arabic, and gum tragacanth can also be used. Colloidal magnesium aluminum silicate or finely divided silica can be used as part of the thickening agent to further improve texture.

Some thickening agents, however, except polymeric polyether compounds, e.g., polyethylene or polypropylene oxide (M.W. 300 to 1,000,000), capped with alkyl or acyl groups containing 1 to about 18 carbon atoms, may react with chlorite. When chlorite is

formulated separately in a dual phase composition, preferred thickening agents are hydroxyethyl cellulose and water-soluble salts of cellulose ethers such as sodium carboxymethyl cellulose and sodium carboxymethyl hydroxyethyl cellulose.

A preferred class of thickening or gelling agents includes a class of homopolymers of acrylic acid crosslinked with an alkyl ether of pentaerythritol or an alkyl ether of sucrose, or carbomers. Carbomers are commercially available from B.F. Goodrich as the Carbopol® series. Particularly preferred carbopols include Carbopol 934, 940, 941, 956, and mixtures thereof.

Copolymers of lactide and glycolide monomers, the copolymer having the molecular weight in the range of from about 1,000 to about 120,000 (number average), are useful for delivery of actives into the periodontal pockets or around the periodontal pockets as a "subgingival gel carrier." These polymers are described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,198,220, Damani, issued March 30, 1993, P&G, 5,242,910, Damani, issued Sept. 7, 1993, P&G, and 4,443,430, Mattei, issued April 17, 1984, all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Thickening agents in an amount from about 0.1% to about 15%, preferably from about 2% to about 10%, more preferably from about 4% to about 8%, by weight of the total toothpaste or gel composition, can be used. Higher concentrations can be used for chewing gums, lozenges (including breath mints), sachets, non-abrasive gels and subgingival gels.

Humectants

Another optional component of the topical, oral carriers of the compositions of the subject invention is a humectant. The humectant serves to keep toothpaste compositions from hardening upon exposure to air, to give compositions a moist feel to the mouth, and, for particular humectants, to impart desirable sweetness of flavor to toothpaste compositions. The humectant, on a pure humectant basis, generally comprises from about 0% to about 70%, preferably from about 5% to about 25%, by weight of the compositions herein. Suitable humectants for use in compositions of the subject invention include edible polyhydric alcohols such as glycerin, sorbitol, xylitol, butylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, and propylene glycol, especially sorbitol and glycerin.

Flavoring and Sweetening Agents

Flavoring agents can also be added to the compositions. Suitable flavoring agents include oil of wintergreen, oil of peppermint, oil of spearmint, clove bud oil,

menthol, anethole, methyl salicylate, eucalyptol, cassia, 1-menthyl acetate, sage, eugenol, parsley oil, oxanone, alpha-irisonone, marjoram, lemon, orange, propenyl guaethol, cinnamon, vanillin, thymol, linalool, cinnamaldehyde glycerol acetal known as CGA, and mixtures thereof. Flavoring agents are generally used in the compositions at levels of from about 0.001% to about 5%, by weight of the composition.

Sweetening agents which can be used include sucrose, glucose, saccharin, dextrose, levulose, lactose, mannitol, sorbitol, fructose, maltose, xylitol, saccharin salts, thaumatin, aspartame, D-tryptophan, dihydrochalcones, acesulfame and cyclamate salts, especially sodium cyclamate and sodium saccharin, and mixtures thereof. A composition preferably contains from about 0.1% to about 10% of these agents, preferably from about 0.1% to about 1%, by weight of the composition.

In addition to flavoring and sweetening agents, coolants, salivating agents, warming agents, and numbing agents can be used as optional ingredients in compositions of the present invention. These agents are present in the compositions at a level of from about 0.001% to about 10%, preferably from about 0.1% to about 1%, by weight of the composition.

The coolant can be any of a wide variety of materials. Included among such materials are carboxamides, menthol, ketals, diols, and mixtures thereof. Preferred coolants in the present compositions are the paramenthan carboxamide agents such as N-ethyl-p-menthan-3-carboxamide, known commercially as "WS-3", N,2,3-trimethyl-2-isopropylbutanamide, known as "WS-23," and mixtures thereof. Additional preferred coolants are selected from the group consisting of menthol, 3-1-menthoxypropane-1,2-diol known as TK-10 manufactured by Takasago, menthone glycerol acetal known as MGA manufactured by Haarmann and Reimer, and menthyl lactate known as Frescolat® manufactured by Haarmann and Reimer. The terms menthol and menthyl as used herein include dextro- and levorotatory isomers of these compounds and racemic mixtures thereof. TK-10 is described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,459,425, Amano et al., issued 7/10/84. WS-3 and other agents are described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,136,163, Watson, et al., issued Jan. 23, 1979; the disclosure of both are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety.

Preferred salivating agents of the present invention include Jambu® manufactured by Takasago. Preferred warming agents include capsicum and nicotinate esters, such as benzyl nicotinate. Preferred numbing agents include benzocaine, lidocaine, clove bud oil, and ethanol.

Anticalculus Agent

The present invention also includes an anticalculus agent, preferably a pyrophosphate ion source which is from a pyrophosphate salt. The pyrophosphate salts useful in the present compositions include the dialkali metal pyrophosphate salts, tetraalkali metal pyrophosphate salts, and mixtures thereof. Disodium dihydrogen pyrophosphate ($\text{Na}_2\text{H}_2\text{P}_2\text{O}_7$), tetrasodium pyrophosphate ($\text{Na}_4\text{P}_2\text{O}_7$), and tetrapotassium pyrophosphate ($\text{K}_4\text{P}_2\text{O}_7$) in their unhydrated as well as hydrated forms are the preferred species. In compositions of the present invention, the pyrophosphate salt may be present in one of three ways: predominately dissolved, predominately undissolved, or a mixture of dissolved and undissolved pyrophosphate.

Compositions comprising predominately dissolved pyrophosphate refer to compositions where at least one pyrophosphate ion source is in an amount sufficient to provide at least about 1.0% free pyrophosphate ions. The amount of free pyrophosphate ions may be from about 1% to about 15%, preferably from about 1.5% to about 10%, and most preferably from about 2% to about 6%. Free pyrophosphate ions may be present in a variety of protonated states depending on the pH of the composition.

Compositions comprising predominately undissolved pyrophosphate refer to compositions containing no more than about 20% of the total pyrophosphate salt dissolved in the composition, preferably less than about 10% of the total pyrophosphate dissolved in the composition. Tetrasodium pyrophosphate salt is the preferred pyrophosphate salt in these compositions. Tetrasodium pyrophosphate may be the anhydrous salt form or the decahydrate form, or any other species stable in solid form in the dentifrice compositions. The salt is in its solid particle form, which may be its crystalline and/or amorphous state, with the particle size of the salt preferably being small enough to be aesthetically acceptable and readily soluble during use. The amount of pyrophosphate salt useful in making these compositions is any tartar control effective amount, and is generally from about 1.5% to about 15%, preferably from about 2% to about 10%, and most preferably from about 3% to about 8%, by weight of the dentifrice composition.

Compositions may also comprise a mixture of dissolved and undissolved pyrophosphate salts. Any of the above mentioned pyrophosphate salts may be used.

The pyrophosphate salts are described in more detail in Kirk & Othmer, *Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology*, Third Edition, Volume 17, Wiley-Interscience

Publishers (1982), incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, including all references incorporated into Kirk & Othmer.

Optional agents to be used in place of or in combination with the pyrophosphate salt include such known materials as synthetic anionic polymers, including polyacrylates and copolymers of maleic anhydride or acid and methyl vinyl ether (e.g., Gantrez), as described, for example, in U.S. Patent 4,627,977, to Gaffar et al., the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety; as well as, e.g., polyamino propoane sulfonic acid (AMPS), zinc citrate trihydrate, polyphosphates (e.g., tripolyphosphate; hexametaphosphate), diphosphonates (e.g., EHDP; AHP), polypeptides (such as polyaspartic and polyglutamic acids), and mixtures thereof.

Alkali Metal Bicarbonate Salt

The present invention may also include an alkali metal bicarbonate salt. Alkali metal bicarbonate salts are soluble in water and unless stabilized, tend to release carbon dioxide in an aqueous system. Sodium bicarbonate, also known as baking soda, is the preferred alkali metal bicarbonate salt. The present composition may contain from about 0.5% to about 30%, preferably from about 0.5% to about 15%, and most preferably from about 0.5% to about 5% of an alkali metal bicarbonate salt.

Miscellaneous Carriers

Water employed in the preparation of commercially suitable oral compositions should preferably be of low ion content and free of organic impurities. Water generally comprises from about 5% to about 70%, and preferably from about 20% to about 50%, by weight of the composition herein. These amounts of water include the free water which is added plus that which is introduced with other materials, such as with sorbitol.

Titanium dioxide may also be added to the present composition. Titanium dioxide is a white powder which adds opacity to the compositions. Titanium dioxide generally comprises from about 0.25% to about 5% by weight of the dentifrice compositions.

Other optional agents include synthetic anionic polymeric polycarboxylates being employed in the form of their free acids or partially or preferably fully neutralized water soluble alkali metal (e.g. potassium and preferably sodium) or ammonium salts and are disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,152,420 to Gaffar, U.S. Pat. No. 3,956,480 to Dichter et al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,138,477 to Gaffar, U.S. Pat. No. 4,183,914 to Gaffar et al., and U.S. Pat. No. 4,906,456 to Gaffar et al. Preferred are 1:4 to 4:1 copolymers of maleic anhydride or acid with another polymerizable ethylenically unsaturated monomer, preferably methyl

vinyl ether (methoxyethylene) having a molecular weight (M.W.) of about 30,000 to about 1,000,000. These copolymers are available for example as Gantrez (AN 139 (M.W. 500,000), A.N. 119 (M.W. 250,000) and preferably S-97 Pharmaceutical Grade (M.W. 70,000), of GAF Corporation.

Additional Therapeutic Agents

It is recognized that in certain forms of therapy, combinations of therapeutic agents in the same delivery system may be useful in order to obtain an optimal effect. Thus, for example, the present compositions may comprise an additional agent such as antimicrobial/antiplaque agents, anti-inflammatory agents (including cyclo-oxygenase inhibitors and lipoxygenase inhibitors), H₂-antagonists, metalloproteinase inhibitors, cytokine receptor antagonists, lipopolysaccharide complexing agents, tissue growth factors, immunostimulatory agents, cellular redox modifiers (antioxidants), biofilm inhibiting agents, analgesics, hormones, vitamins, and minerals. The chlorite ion may be combined with one or more of such agents in a single delivery system to provide combined effectiveness.

Antimicrobial antiplaque agents may include, but are not limited to, triclosan, 5-chloro-2-(2,4-dichlorophenoxy)-phenol, as described in The Merck Index, 11th ed. (1989), pp. 1529 (entry no. 9573) in U.S. Patent No. 3,506,720, and in European Patent Application No. 0,251,591 of Beecham Group, PLC, published January 7, 1988; chlorhexidine (Merck Index, no. 2090), alexidine (Merck Index, no. 222); hexetidine (Merck Index, no. 4624); sanguinarine (Merck Index, no. 8320); benzalkonium chloride (Merck Index, no. 1066); salicylanilide (Merck Index, no. 8299); domiphen bromide (Merck Index, no. 3411); cetylpyridinium chloride (CPC) (Merck Index, no. 2024); tetradecylpyridinium chloride (TPC); N-tetradecyl-4-ethylpyridinium chloride (TDEPC); octenidine; delmopinol, octapinol, and other piperidino derivatives; nicin preparations; zinc ion agents; stannous ion agents; essential oils (including thymol, methyl salicylate, eucalyptol, menthol) and analogs and salts of the above antimicrobial antiplaque agents. If present, the antimicrobial antiplaque agents generally comprise at least about 0.01% by weight of the compositions of the present invention.

Anti-inflammatory agents may also be present in the oral compositions of the present invention. Such agents may include, but are not limited to, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents such as aspirin, ketorolac, flurbiprofen, ibuprofen, naproxen, indomethacin, aspirin, ketoprofen, piroxicam and meclofenamic acid, rofecoxib, celecoxib, and mixtures thereof. If present, the anti-inflammatory agents generally

comprise from about 0.001% to about 5% by weight of the compositions of the present invention. Ketorolac is described in USRE 036,419, issued November 30, 1999; US 5,785,951, issued July 28, 1998 and US 5,464,609, issued November 7, 1995. All of these references are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

The present invention can also optionally comprise selective H-2 antagonists preferably selected from the group consisting of cimetidine, etintidine, ranitidine, ICIA-5165, tiotidine, ORF-17578, lupitidine, donetidine, famotidine, roxatidine, pifatidine, lamtidine, BL-6548, BMY-25271, zaltidine, nizatidine, mifentidine, BMY-25368 (SKF-94482), BL-6341A, ICI-162846, ramixotidine, Wy-45727, SR-58042, BMY-25405, loxtidine, DA-4634, bisfentidine, sufotidine, ebrotidine, HE-30-256, D-16637, FRG-8813, FRG-8701, impromidine, L-643728, and HB-408. As used herein, selective H-2 antagonists are compounds which block H-2 receptors, but do not have meaningful activity in blocking histamine-1 (H-1 or H1) receptors. Topical oral compositions comprising these selective H-2 antagonist compounds are disclosed in U.S. Patents 5,294,433 and 5,364,616 Singer et al., issued 3/15/94 and 11/15/94 respectively and assigned to The Procter & Gamble Co., which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety.

If present, the H-2 antagonist agents generally comprise from about from about 0.001% to about 20%, more preferably from about 0.01% to about 15%, more preferably still from about 0.1% to about 10%, still more preferably from about 1% to about 5%, by weight of the compositions of the present invention. Particularly preferred H-2 antagonists include cimetidine, ranitidine, famotidine, roxatidine, nizatidine and mifentidine.

Metalloproteinase inhibitors may also be present in the oral compositions of the present invention. Metalloproteinases (MPs) are enzymes that often act on the intercellular matrix, and thus are involved in tissue breakdown and remodeling and thought to be important in mediating the symptomatology of a number of diseases including periodontal disease. Potential therapeutic indications of MP inhibitors have been discussed in the literature, including rheumatoid arthritis (Mullins, D. E., et al., Biochim. Biophys. Acta. (1983) 695:117-214); osteoarthritis (Henderson, B., et al., Drugs of the Future (1990) 15:495-508); the metastasis of tumor cells (ibid, Broadhurst, M. J., et al., European Patent Application 276,436 (published 1987), Reich, R., et al., 48 Cancer Res. 3307-3312 (1988); and various ulcerations or ulcerative conditions of tissue. For example, ulcerative conditions can result in the cornea as the result of alkali

burns or as a result of infection by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Acanthamoeba*, Herpes simplex and vaccinia viruses. Other examples of conditions characterized by undesired metalloprotease activity include periodontal disease, epidermolysis bullosa, fever, inflammation and scleritis (Cf. DeCicco et al, WO 95 29892 published November 9, 1995).

Metalloproteinase inhibitors useful for the present compositions may include, but are not limited to, hydroxamic acid derivatives, phosphinic acid amides, and heteroatom-containing cyclic and acyclic structures such as disclosed in US 6,015,912, issued January 18, 2000; U.S. Patent 5,830,915, issued November 3, 1998; US 5,672,598, issued September 30, 1997 and US 5,639,746, issued June 17, 1997 and in WO 99/52868; WO 99/06340; WO 98/08827; WO98/08825; WO 98/08823; WO 98/08822; WO 98/08815; and WO 98/08814, all assigned to the Procter & Gamble Company and incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. If present, the metalloproteinase inhibitors generally comprise at from about 0.01% to about 5%, by weight of the compositions of the present invention.

Other optional therapeutic agents include antibiotics such as augmentin, amoxicillin, tetracycline, doxycycline, minocycline, metronidazole, neomycin, kanamycin, or clindamycin; immune-suppressive or stimulatory agents such as methotrexate or levamisole; dentinal desensitizing agents such as strontium chloride, potassium nitrate, stannous fluoride or sodium fluoride; odor masking agents such as peppermint oil or chlorophyll; immunostimulatory agents such as immunoglobulin or antigens; local anesthetic agents such as lidocaine or benzocaine; nutritional agents such as amino acids, essential fats, vitamin C and minerals; antioxidants such as alpha-tocopherol (Vitamin E), Co-enzyme Q10, pyrroloquinoline quinone (PQQ), Vitamin C, Vitamin A, folate, N-acetyl cysteine, gallic acid and butylated hydroxy toluene; lipopolysaccharide complexing agents such as polymyxin; peroxides such as urea peroxide; and biofilm inhibiting agents including furanones, cell wall lytic enzymes such as lysozyme, plaque matrix inhibitors such as dextranases and mutanases, and peptides such as bacteriocins, histatins, defensins and cecropins.

Composition Use

A safe and effective amount of the compositions of the present invention and/or chlorite ion may be topically applied to the mucosal tissue of the oral cavity, to the gingival tissue of the oral cavity, and/or to the surface of the teeth, for the treatment or prevention of the above mentioned diseases or conditions of the oral cavity, in several

conventional ways. For example, the gingival or mucosal tissue may be rinsed with a solution (e.g., mouth rinse, mouth spray) containing chlorite ion; or if chlorite ion is included in a dentifrice (e.g., toothpaste, tooth gel or tooth powder), the gingival/mucosal tissue or teeth is bathed in the liquid and/or lather generated by brushing the teeth. Other non-limiting examples include applying a non-abrasive gel or paste, which contains chlorite ion, directly to the gingival/mucosal tissue or to the teeth with or without an oral care appliance described below; chewing gum that contains chlorite; chewing or sucking on a breath tablet or lozenge which contains chlorite ion. Preferred methods of applying chlorite ion to the gingival/mucosal tissue and/or the teeth are via rinsing with a mouth rinse solution and via brushing with a dentifrice. Other methods of topically applying chlorite ion to the gingival/mucosal tissue and the surfaces of the teeth are apparent to those skilled in the art.

The concentration of chlorite ion in the composition of the present invention depends on the type of composition (e.g., toothpaste, mouth rinse, lozenge, gum, etc.) used to apply the chlorite ion to the gingival/mucosal tissue and/or the teeth, due to differences in efficiency of the compositions contacting the tissue and teeth, and due also to the amount of the composition generally used. The concentration may also depend on the disease or condition being treated.

It is preferred that the mouth rinse to be taken into the oral cavity have a concentration of chlorite ion in the range of from about 0.02% to about 0.4%, with from about 0.075% to about 0.2% more preferred and from about 0.075% to about 0.15%, by weight of the composition, even more preferred. Preferably mouth rinse compositions of the present invention deliver 3.75 to 22.5 mg of chlorite ion to the oral cavity when approximately 15 ml of the rinse is used.

Mouth sprays preferably have chlorite ion concentrations from about 0.15% to about 5%, with from about 0.2% to about 4% more preferred, with from about 0.75% to about 3.5%, by weight of the composition, even more preferred.

Preferably for dentifrices (including toothpaste and tooth gels) and non-abrasive gels, the concentration of chlorite ion is in the range of from about 0.2% to about 3.0%, by weight of the composition, with from about 0.75% to about 2.5% preferred, and from about 1.5% to about 2%, by weight of the composition, even more preferred.

Chewing gums and lozenges (including breath mints), are generally formulated into compositions of individual unit size preferably containing from about 0.1 mg to about

12 mg, preferably from about 1 mg to about 6 mg, of chlorite ion, per unit used in the oral cavity (i.e. per stick of gum, lozenge, breath mint, etc.).

Pet care products such as foods, chews and toys are generally formulated to contain from 0.2 mg to 200 mg chlorite per unit of product to be administered to the animal. The chlorite can be incorporated for example, into a relatively supple but strong and durable material such as rawhide, ropes made from natural or synthetic fibers, and polymeric articles made from nylon, polyester or thermoplastic polyurethane. As the animal chews, licks or gnaws the product, chlorite and any other incorporated active elements are released into the animal's oral cavity into a salivary medium, comparable to an effective brushing or rinsing. Pet food embodiments can be formulated to provide from 0.2 mg to 200 mg chlorite per feeding or treating session. The chlorite can be incorporated as an ingredient or admixed into a pet food such as for example, a kibbled, semi-moist, or canned food. Highly preferred food embodiments include carriers that tend to increase residence time of the food in the oral cavity. For example, the chlorite can be incorporated in a carrier that will stick or adhere to the teeth, in order that a certain amount of product will remain in the mouth and not be ingested immediately. The present chlorite compositions may also be incorporated into other pet care products, including nutritional supplements and drinking water additives.

It should be understood that the present invention relates not only to methods for delivering the present chlorite containing compositions to the oral cavity of a human, but also to methods of delivering these compositions to the oral cavity of other animals, e.g., household pets or other domestic animals, or animals kept in captivity. Other animals include for example, dogs, cats or horses.

For dual- or multi-phase compositions the above concentrations of chlorite ion represent the concentration of chlorite ion after the phases are mixed together, which is usually just prior to use by the consumer. Thus, the concentration of chlorite ion in the chlorite containing phase will vary depending on the amount of the second or additional phases to be mixed with the chlorite-containing phase to obtain the final product for use.

For the method of treating diseases or conditions of the oral cavity, including breath malodor (as well as long lasting breath protection), of the present invention, a safe and effective amount of chlorite ion is preferably applied to the gingival/mucosal tissue and/or the teeth (for example, by rinsing with a mouthrinse, directly applying a non-abrasive gel with or without a device, applying a dentifrice or a tooth gel with a toothbrush, sucking or chewing a lozenge or breathmint, etc.) preferably for at least

about 10 seconds, preferably from about 20 seconds to about 10 minutes, more preferably from about 30 seconds to about 60 seconds. The method often involves expectoration of most of the composition following such contact. The frequency of such contact is preferably from about once per week to about four times per day, more preferably from about thrice per week to about three times per day, even more preferably from about once per day to about twice per day. The period of such treatment typically ranges from about one day to a lifetime. For particular oral care diseases or conditions the duration of treatment depends on the severity of the oral disease or condition being treated, the particular delivery form utilized and the patient's response to treatment. If delivery to the periodontal pockets is desirable, such as with the treatment of periodontal disease, a mouthrinse can be delivered to the periodontal pocket using a syringe or water injection device. These devices are known to one skilled in the art. Devices of this type include "Water Pik" by Teledyne Corporation. After irrigating, the subject can swish the rinse in the mouth to also cover the dorsal tongue and other gingival and mucosal surfaces. In addition a toothpaste, non-abrasive gel, toothgel, etc. can be brushed onto the tongue surface and other gingival and mucosal tissues of the oral cavity.

The present compositions may also be delivered to tissues and/or spaces within the oral cavity using electromechanical devices such as metering devices, targeted application devices and cleaning or integrated oral hygiene systems.

For treating oral tissue wounds and aiding tissue regeneration, fluid subgingival gel compositions that can be inserted via syringe and either a needle or catheter directly into the areas needing treatment, such as the periodontal cavities, are very useful and convenient. Preferred gel-like fluid compositions are those that transform into near solid phase in the presence of aqueous fluid such as water or crevicular fluid, such gels typically comprising from 0.02 % to 6% chlorite in a carrier system comprising a poly(lactyl-co-glycolide) copolymer and solvent such as propylene carbonate . The hardened composition is thus retained at the site of application, and since the polymeric carrier undergoes slow degradation via hydrolysis, the chlorite and any other active agent continue to release in a sustained manner from such compositions.

The following non-limiting examples further describe preferred embodiments within the scope of the present invention. Many variations of these examples are possible without departing from the scope of the invention.

All percentages used herein are by weight of the composition unless otherwise indicated.

EXAMPLES

The following examples are made by conventional processes by mixing the following:

Example 1 - Dual Phase Dentifrice

Dentifrice Phase		Chlorite Phase	
Ingredient	Wt. %	Ingredient	Wt. %
Water	20.680	Sodium Chlorite (80%)	3.75
Sorbitol (70% Solution)	18.534	Carbopol 956 ²	5.62
Glycerin	9.000	Water	86.89
Sodium Carbonate	1.000	Sodium Carbonate	0.53
Sodium Fluoride	0.486	Sodium Bicarbonate	0.42
Propylene Glycol	8.000	Sodium Hydroxide	2.79
Hydrated Silica	30.00		
Xanthan Gum	0.500		
Carboxymethyl Cellulose ¹	0.400		
Sodium alkyl sulfate (27.9% Sol'n)	8.000		
Titanium Dioxide	0.700		
Sodium Saccharin	0.600		
Flavor	2.000		
Methyl Paraben	0.070	Chlorite phase pH = approximately 10	
Propyl Paraben	0.030		
Total	100.00	Total	100.00

After phases mixed in a 1:1 vol./vol. ratio, pH approximately 8.5 to 9.

¹ Grade 7M8SF from Aqualon.

² Available from B. F. Goodrich.

Example 2 - Dual Phase Dentifrice

Dentifrice Phase		Chlorite Phase	
Ingredient	Wt. %	Ingredient	Wt. %
Water	22.180	Sodium Chlorite (80%)	3.75
Sorbitol (70% Solution)	13.534	Carbopol 956 ²	3.72
Glycerin	9.000	Water	89.82
Disodium Phosphate	4.500	Sodium Carbonate	0.53
Sodium Fluoride	0.486	Sodium Bicarbonate	0.42
Propylene Glycol	8.000	Sodium Hydroxide	1.76
Hydrated Silica	30.00		
Xanthan Gum	0.500		
Carboxymethyl Cellulose ¹	0.400		
Sodium alkyl sulfate (27.9% Sol'n)	8.000		
Titanium Dioxide	0.700		
Sodium Saccharin	0.600		
Flavor	2.000		
Methyl Paraben	0.070	Chlorite phase pH = approximately 10	
Propyl Paraben	0.030		
Total	100.00	Total	100.00

After phases mixed in a 1:1 vol./vol. Ratio, pH approximately 7.5.

¹ Grade 7M8SF from Aqualon.

² Available from B. F. Goodrich.

Example 3 - Single Phase Dentifrice

Ingredient	Wt. %
Water	64.152
Sodium Chlorite (80%)	1.875
Sodium Fluoride	0.243
Hydrated Silica	25.000
Xanthan Gum	0.600
Carbomer 956 ¹	0.200
Sodium alkyl sulfate (27.9% Sol'n)	4.000
Titanium Dioxide	1.000
Sodium Saccharin	0.130
Flavor	1.000
Sodium Hydroxide (50% Sol'n)	1.800
Total	100.00

¹ Available from B. F. Goodrich.
pH approximately 10.

Example 4 - Dual Phase Mouthwash

Mouthwash Phase		Chlorite Phase	
Ingredient	Wt. %	Ingredient	Wt. %
Water	45.00	Sodium Chlorite (80%)	0.50
Glycerin	19.24	Water	98.55
Sodium Bicarbonate	1.00	Sodium Carbonate	0.53
Poloxamer 407	0.80	Sodium Bicarbonate	0.42
Polysorbate 80	0.20		
Sodium Saccharin	0.20		
Flavor	0.50		
Color	0.06		
Alcohol	33.00		
Total	100.00	Total	100.00

Example 5 - Single Phase Mouthwash

Ingredient	Wt. %
Water	98.80
Sodium Chlorite (80%)	0.25
Sodium Carbonate	0.53
Sodium Bicarbonate	0.42
Total	100.00

Example 6 - Chlorite Lozenge

Ingredient	
Na Chlorite	6 mg. Per lozenge
Flavor	As desired
Magnesium Stearate	7.5 mg.
Stearic Acid	75 mg.
Compressible Sugar	QS 1500 mg.

Example 7

Dry Powder Mouthrinse for Reconstitution	
Ingredient	Weight %
Spray Dried Ethanol ¹	85.38
Sodium Bicarbonate	5.34
Sodium Chlorite (80%)	1.60
Tastemaker Spray Dried Spearmint #214487	6.40
Aspartame	0.43
Acesulfame Potassium	0.85
Total	100.00

¹30% load, available from Takasago.

Example 8

Dry Powder Mouthrinse for Reconstitution	
Ingredient	Weight %
Spray Dried Ethanol ¹	75.00
Sodium Bicarbonate	15.72
Sodium Chlorite (80%)	1.60
Tastemaker Spray Dried Spearmint #214487	6.40
Aspartame	0.43
Acesulfame Potassium	0.85
Total	100.00

¹30% load, available from Takasago.

Add dry ingredients, listed above, in any order, and mix until achieving a homogeneous mixture. Colorants, to provide color after adding water to the dry mixture, are optional.

To make finished mouthwash:

Example 7: Add 1.874 grams of dry powder blend to 15 ml. of H₂O in a small dose cup with lid. Shake vigorously until solids dissolve, rinse and expectorate.

Example 8: Add 1.874 grams of dry powder blend to 15 ml. of H₂O in small dose cup with lid. Shake vigorously until solids dissolve, rinse and expectorate.

Example 9

Non-Abrasive Gel	
Ingredient	Weight %
Sodium Chlorite (80%)	1.875
Carbopol 956 ¹	8.00
Sodium Bicarbonate	0.84
Sodium Hydroxide (50% Solution)	sufficient to get pH 9
Water	QS 100%

¹ Available from B. F. Goodrich.

Example 10

Non-Abrasive Gel	
Ingredient	Weight %
Sodium Chlorite (80%)	1.875
Carbopol 956 ¹	3.90
Sodium Bicarbonate	0.84
Sodium Hydroxide (50% Solution)	sufficient to get pH 9
Water	QS 100%

¹ Available from B. F. Goodrich.

For Examples 9 and 10, disperse the Carbopol in water. Thereafter, add the sodium hydroxide and mix. Then add the sodium bicarbonate and mix. Check the pH and adjust to about pH 9 with sodium hydroxide, if needed. Finally, add the sodium chlorite and mix.

Example 11

Sub-Gingival Gel	
Ingredient	Weight %
Sodium Chlorite (80%)	2.0
Poly(lactyl-co-glycolide)/50:50 copolymer	30.0
Propylene carbonate	68.0
Total	100.0

The above composition can be prepared by first dissolving the copolymer into the propylene carbonate using a propeller mixer. Powdered sodium chlorite is slowly added and mixed into the polymeric solution to a uniform consistency. The resulting gel like fluid can be inserted into or around the periodontal pocket or gingival region via syringe.

Example 12

Oral Spray	
Ingredient	Weight %
Sodium Chlorite (80%)	1.25
Sodium bicarbonate	0.192
Sodium carbonate	0.289
Water	QS 100%

The above spray formulation has a pH of approximately 10. In an animal clinical study conducted among Beagle dogs, 30 ml of the spray solution according to Example 12 was applied evenly throughout the dog's mouth twice daily (n=10). After 9 months, significant reductions in attachment loss were observed in the treated animals compared to those receiving placebo (n=30), i.e., a spray solution containing the same ingredients as Example 12 but without sodium chlorite.

Example 13

Chlorite-containing pet rawhide chips and toy ropes are prepared by spraying with the oral spray of Example 12 (10-20 ml per item). The impregnated items are given to dogs immediately or stored in sealed plastic bags to remain moist.

Having thus described the invention in detail, it will be clear to those skilled in the art that various changes may be made without departing from the scope of the invention and the invention is not to be considered limited to what is described in the specification.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition for treating and preventing oral cavity diseases in human and animal subjects, said composition comprising:
 - (a) from about 0.02% to 6.0%, by weight of the final composition, of chlorite ion;
and
 - (b) a pharmaceutically-acceptable topical, oral carrier;wherein the final composition is essentially free of chlorine dioxide or chlorous acid and wherein the composition is essentially free of hypochlorite ions or hypochlorite salts and has a final pH greater than 7.
2. A composition for treating and preventing oral cavity diseases according to Claim 1, further comprising a therapeutic active selected from the group consisting of antimicrobial/antiplaque agents, anti-inflammatory agents, H₂-antagonists, metalloproteinase inhibitors, cytokine receptor antagonists, lipopolysaccharide complexing agents, tissue growth factors, immunostimulatory agents, cellular redox modifiers, biofilm inhibiting agents, analgesics, hormones, vitamins, minerals, and mixtures thereof.
3. A composition for treating and preventing oral cavity diseases according to Claim 2, wherein said composition further comprises a therapeutic active selected from the group consisting of triclosan, chlorhexidine, alexidine; hexetidine, sanguinarine, benzalkonium chloride, salicylanilide, domiphen bromide, cetylpyridinium chloride (CPC), tetradecylpyridinium chloride (TPC), N-tetradecyl-4-ethylpyridinium chloride (TDEPC), octenidine, delmopinol, octapinol, nicin preparations, zinc ion agents, stannous ion agents, essential oils, augmentin, amoxicillin, tetracycline, doxycycline, minocycline, metronidazole; aspirin, ketorolac, flurbiprofen, ibuprofen, naproxen, indomethacin, ketoprofen, piroxicam, meclofenamic acid, cimetidine, ranitidine, famotidine, roxatidine, nizatidine, mifentidine, iodine, sulfonamides, mercurials, bisbiguanides, phenolics, neomycin, kanamycin, clindamycin, eugenol, hydrocortisone, methotrexate, levamasole, strontium chloride, potassium nitrate, sodium fluoride, peppermint oil, chlorophyll, immunoglobulin, antigens, lidocaine, benzocaine, amino acids, essential fats, vitamin C, α -tocopherol, Co-enzyme Q10, PQQ, Vitamin A, folate, N-acetyl cysteine, gallic acid, butylated hydroxytoluene,

polymyxin, urea peroxide, hydroxamic acid derivatives, phosphinic acid amides, furanones, lysozyme, dextranases, mutanases, bacteriocins, and mixtures thereof.

4. Use of a composition according to any of Claims 1 to 3 for the manufacture of a medicament for treating and preventing oral cavity diseases in human and animal subjects.
5. Use of a composition according to any of Claims 1 to 3 for the manufacture of a medicament for treating periodontal disease in human and animal subjects, involving one or more of inflammation of gingiva, inflammation of periodontal ligament, formation of periodontal pockets, bleeding and/or pus discharge from periodontal pockets, resorption of alveolar bone, loose teeth and loss of teeth.
6. Use according to Claim 5 wherein said composition is a mouthrinse delivered to the periodontal pockets using a syringe, applicator or electromechanical device.
7. Use according to Claim 6 wherein the mouthrinse composition is suitable for swishing in the mouth to cover other oral cavity tissues including tongue, gingival and mucosal surfaces.
8. Use according to Claim 5 wherein said composition is a toothpaste, non-abrasive gel or tooth gel delivered by brushing teeth and tongue, gingival, and mucosal surfaces.
9. Use of a composition according to any of Claims 1 for the manufacture of a medicament for aiding periodontal tissue healing and regeneration, wherein said composition is suitable for placing at the site in need of periodontal tissue healing or regeneration and wherein said composition is retained in the tissue and slowly releases a therapeutically effective amount of chlorite ion to the tissue.
10. Use of a composition according to Claim 2 or Claim 3 for the manufacture of a medicament for aiding periodontal tissue healing and regeneration, wherein said composition is suitable for placing at the site in need of periodontal tissue healing or regeneration and wherein said composition is retained in the tissue and slowly

releases a therapeutically effective amount of chlorite ion and other therapeutic active to the tissue.

11. A method of treating and preventing oral cavity diseases in human and animal subjects comprising administering to the oral cavity a composition according to any of Claims 1 to 3.
12. A method of treating periodontal disease in human and animal subjects, involving one or more of inflammation of gingiva, inflammation of periodontal ligament, formation of periodontal pockets, bleeding and/or pus discharge from periodontal pockets, resorption of alveolar bone, loose teeth and loss of teeth, said method comprising administering to the subjects' oral cavity a composition according to any of Claims 1 to 3.
13. A method according to Claim 12 wherein said composition is a mouthrinse delivered to the periodontal pockets using a syringe, applicator or electromechanical device.
14. A method according to Claim 13 including the step of swishing the mouthrinse composition in the mouth to cover other oral cavity tissues including tongue, gingival and mucosal surfaces.
15. A method according to Claim 12 wherein said composition is a toothpaste, non-abrasive gel or tooth gel delivered by brushing teeth and tongue, gingival, and mucosal surfaces.
16. A method for aiding periodontal tissue healing and regeneration, the method comprising placing at the site in need of periodontal tissue healing or regeneration, a composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition is retained in the tissue and slowly releases a therapeutically effective amount of chlorite ion to the tissue.
17. A method for aiding periodontal tissue healing and regeneration, the method comprising placing at the site in need of periodontal tissue healing or regeneration, a composition according to Claim 2 or Claim 3, wherein said composition is retained in

the tissue and slowly releases a therapeutically effective amount of chlorite ion and other therapeutic active to the tissue.

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